



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service  
Indian Health Service

Memorandum

D a t e AUG 25 1989

From Acting Associate Director  
Office of Administration and Management

SGM 89-3

Subject Correction Memorandum: Assignment of Special General Memorandum Status  
Memorandum Dated April 27, 1989 - Use of Certification as a Selective Factor  
for Physician Assistants"

To Director  
Indian Health Service

Attached is a corrected Use of Certification policy memorandum which was  
originally distributed on April 27, 1989, as uncontrolled correspondence.

To correct this problem, this Memorandum has been assigned Special General  
Memorandum status. The control number for this memorandum is SGM 89-3.

Should you have questions, please call Mrs. J.B. Ford, Division of Management  
Policy, 443-2546.

Thomas L. Austin, D.M.D.

Attachment



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service  
Indian Health Service

Memorandum

Date APR 27 1989

From : Director

SGM 89-3

Subject : use of Certification as a Selective Factor for Physician Assistants

To : All Area Directors  
Indian Health service

The Public Health Service (PHS) policy requires the licensure, certification, or registration of several categories of health care professionals. In order to fully implement this policy for those categories where licensure, certification, or registration was not previously mandatory, PHS obtained approval from U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to use selective placement factors in future recruitment activities for the occupations of social worker, Dietician, Clinical Psychologist, Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist. The OPM is also intending to include a specific provision for use of licensing, certification and registration as selective factors in the qualifications standard for other health professional positions where the Agency has determined that it is necessary.

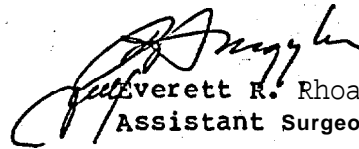
In line with this policy, IHS requested the PHS to allow us to use certification as a selective factor in recruitment for physician assistant positions, GS-603 series. The basis for this request was that physician assistants are used in many remote locations in the Agency, functioning without on site supervision much of the time. Being able to require certification for physician assistants will help to assure that high quality health care is provided to our patients.

The PHS has informed us that we may proceed without seeking OPM approval. Therefore, all future recruitment for physician assistant positions as of the effective date of this policy, will include a statement on the vacancy announcement requiring certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants as a selective factor in filling the position.

Certification will be required for all IHS physician assistants when moving to a position other than the one presently encumbered. Certification for individuals will be waived only for the position they presently encumber. since the physician assistant certification examination is given on an annual basis with test application deadline in June, test administration in October, and test results issued in January, this new policy will be effective on February 1, 1990. Information regarding the certification examination can be obtained by contacting the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, 2845 Henderson Mill Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30341, (404) 493-9100.

All Arda Directors  
Indian Health service

Please notify appropriate personnel in your Area of these requirements.

  
Everett R. Rhoades, M.D.  
Assistant Surgeon General